



Family Fun Activities

Sideling Hill Visitor Center

c/o Indian Springs Wildlife Office
14038 Blairs Valley Road
Clear Spring, MD 21722
301-842-2702

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/sidelinghill.html>

Franklin Mineral Museum, Inc.

Off Route 23 - Follow the signs.
32 Evans Street - PO Box 54
(between Main Street and Buckwheat Road)
Franklin, NJ 07416

Phone: (973) 827-3481

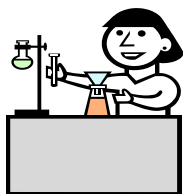
\$ Admission

<http://www.darron.net/franklinmineralmuseum/>

Soldiers Delight Natural Environment Area

c/o Patapsco Valley State Park
8020 Baltimore National Pike
Ellicott City, MD 21043
(410) 461-5005

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/soldiers.html>



Career Connections

Take a few minutes to discuss, with your child, these different career opportunities for people interested in the studying rocks and minerals

Geologist

studies the materials, processes, products, physical nature, and history of the Earth

Volcanologist

investigates volcanoes and volcanic phenomena to understand these natural hazards and predict eruptions

Geochemist

uses physical and inorganic chemistry to investigate the nature and distribution of major and trace elements in ground water and Earth materials

Stratigrapher

investigates the time and space relationships of rocks, on a local, regional, and global scale throughout geologic time -- especially the fossil and mineral content of layered rocks

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A Parent's Informational Guide to the Science Unit:

GEOLOGY ROCKS



Grade 5





GEOLOGY ROCKS

Geology Rocks is a fifth grade unit in which students are engaged in hands-on, minds-on activities the processes that shape the earth. The Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum Indicators addressed in the unit are listed below:

1.0 Skills and Processes

B. Applying Evidence and Reasoning

1. Seek better reasons for believing something then: "Everybody knows that..." or "I just know" and discount such reasons when given by other.

2.0 Earth Space Science

A. Materials and Processes That Shape A Planet

2. Cite and describe the processes that cause rapid or slow changes in Earth's surface.
3. Explain how rock is formed from combinations of different minerals and that smaller rocks come from the breakage and weathering of bed-rock (solid rock underlying soil components) and larger rocks; soil is made partly from weathered rock, partly from plant remains—and also contains many living organisms.



Unit Vocabulary

The vocabulary listed below is a sampling from the *Geology Rocks* unit. Encourage your child to use these words when telling you about what they are learning during this science unit.

color- a physical property of minerals that is not the most reliable method of identification

core- the center of planet Earth

crust- the hard, rocky covering of the earth

deposit- soil and rocks dropped by moving water, ice, or blowing wind

erosion- the movement of weathered rock by water, wind, ice and gravity

hardness- a mineral's ability to resist being scratched, identified using Mohs' scale from 1-10

luster- how a mineral's surface reflects light (metallic/non-metallic)

magma- molten rock beneath the surface of the earth that is melted by the great heat there

mantle- a thick zone of rock within the earth that is beneath the crust

mineral- a nonliving substance found in nature, made of crystals and having the same chemical makeup

rock- made up of two or more minerals; it can contain plant and animal remains

rock cycle- the process of rocks changing into other kinds of rocks

sediment- small pieces of rock, shell, and plant and animal matter that are moved and deposited by water, wind, or ice

soil- a combination of weathered rock, plant remains, and living organisms

streak- the color of the mark that a mineral makes when it is scraped on a white tile

weathering- process by which rocks exposed to weather are worn down by water, wind, ice and roots.



Books to Read

Take some time to read books about geology and the earth with your child. Books can be found in the non-fiction section of the library. You can also find books on this topic in the children's section of your school and public library.

Rocks and Fossils (Science Kids)
by Chris Pellant

Smithsonian Handbooks: Rocks & Minerals
by Chris Pellant

Janice VanCleave's Rocks and Minerals: Mind-Boggling Experiments You Can Turn Into Science Fair Projects.
by Janice VanCleave

Backpack Books: 1,001 Facts about Rocks & Minerals
by Sue Grabham

Internet Sites



Interactives

<http://www.learner.org/interactives/>

Rock Hounds

<http://www.fi.edu/fellows/payton/rocks/index2.html>

USGS Ask a Geologist

<http://walrus.wr.usgs.gov/ask-a-geologist/>